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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

10 JOHN WHITE; SHELLI PARK,

11 Plaintiffs,

12 v.

13 LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE
14 COMPANY; LIBERTY INSURANCE
CORPORATION,

15 Defendants.
16

CASE NO. C20-841 MJP

ORDER FOR REMOTE / VIRTUAL
CIVIL JURY TRIAL

17 The Court ORDERS that the jury trial scheduled to commence on July 19, 2021, at 9:00
18 AM, shall be conducted using the following procedures and protocols.

19 **A. Remote / Virtual Trial Format**

- 20 1. The entire trial, including jury deliberations, will take place using the
21 ZoomGov.com platform. The parties, counsel, witnesses, jurors, and court staff
22 will not be physically present in the courtroom. The Court will call a jury pool of
23 eight jurors. The parties will have two rounds of fifteen minutes per side and five
24 additional minutes per side to examine the jurors. Any questions the parties would
like the Court to ask should be submitted to the Court by July 6, 2021.

2. The public will have telephonic access via a number published on the Court's trial calendar.

B. Preparation

1. Counsel shall familiarize themselves with the ZoomGov.com and Box.com platforms by reviewing the tutorials located at <https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/attorneys/remotehearings>.
2. Counsel shall ensure that they and each of their witnesses have the hardware, software, data bandwidth, and Internet access required to participate remotely. The minimum system requirements are posted at <https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/attorneys/remotehearings>.
3. Counsel shall also ensure that they have one or more alternative means of communicating with their clients and witnesses, as well as with the Court, outside the ZoomGov.com platform (*e.g.*, via cellular phone or email).
4. Counsel shall consider establishing a high-speed Internet connection (a hard-wired connection is generally preferable to a wireless Internet connection). Counsel shall also consider the feasibility of participating from their office if the impact of others requiring Internet usage during the proceedings might impact a participant's connection speed.
5. Parties and counsel are to participate with the court and court staff in a technology check to occur at the conclusion of the pretrial conference scheduled to commence on July 8, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

C. Recording

1. The Court will provide a court reporter for the trial. No part of the trial may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, in whole or in part, by any participant (attorney, party, witness, or juror) or public observer. This prohibition includes any audio or video recording, photographs, and/or screenshots. The parties and counsel shall ensure that each trial participant for

which they are responsible acknowledges and agrees to this prohibition.

D. Witnesses and Participants

1. Counsel shall provide, via email to the Court's Trial Coordinator and Courtroom Deputy, Grant Cogswell (grant_cogswell@wawd.uscourts.gov or (206) 370-8949), the following information for each party, attorney, paralegal, legal assistant, trial or technical consultant, and witness who will participate remotely:
 - Name
 - Email address
 - Phone number
 - Participant status (*e.g.*, party, attorney, witness, etc.)
2. Prior to trial, the Court's Trial Coordinator will supply to counsel the links for the ZoomGov.com sessions. Counsel shall forward the links to other participants, including witnesses, as appropriate.
3. After using the link to access the ZoomGov.com session, participants will enter a virtual waiting room. They will be admitted from the virtual waiting room into the virtual courtroom when appropriate. Counsel are responsible for notifying witnesses when and how they are expected to report to the virtual waiting room.
4. Participants who will not be examining witnesses, testifying, or otherwise presenting matters during the proceedings (e.g., attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, and trial or technical consultants) shall use the ZoomGov.com platform controls to mute their microphones and deactivate their cameras.
5. During the virtual hearing, each party and all jurors will be visible on video with microphones muted.
6. Counsel and the witness are not to communicate through any other device or method while the witness is testifying. Counsel and the witness may not be in the same room.

1 **E. Exhibits**

- 2 1. Exhibits shall be numbered in advance of trial in accordance with the protocol set
3 forth in the Minute Order Setting Trial and Related Dates, Dkt. No. 9. That
4 protocol is as follows: (A) Plaintiffs' exhibits shall be numbered consecutively
5 beginning with 1; and (B) Defendants' exhibits shall be numbered consecutively
6 beginning with the next number series not used by Plaintiffs. Duplicate
7 documents shall not be listed twice. Once a party has identified an exhibit in the
8 pretrial order, any party may use it.
- 9 2. All exhibits shall be uploaded by counsel to the "Box.com" platform via one or
10 more links that the Court's Trial Coordinator will provide via email prior to the
11 trial date.
- 12 3. Exhibits as to which admissibility has been stipulated shall be uploaded to the
13 Box.com folder labeled "Admitted Exhibits." Exhibits as to which admissibility is
14 disputed shall be uploaded to the respective Box.com folders labeled "Plaintiffs'
15 Proposed Exhibits" and "Defendants' Proposed Exhibits." At the end of each trial
16 day, the Court's Trial Coordinator and counsel will confer, and the Court's Trial
17 Coordinator will transfer into the "Admitted Exhibits" folder any exhibits in the
18 folders for "Plaintiffs' Proposed Exhibits" and "Defendants' Proposed Exhibits"
19 that have been offered and admitted into evidence.
- 20 4. After the close of evidence and before the jury begins deliberating, the Court's
21 Trial Coordinator and counsel will confer to confirm that the "Admitted Exhibits"
22 folder accurately reflects the evidence admitted during the course of trial. During
23 their deliberations, the jurors will be provided access to the Box.com folder for
24 "Admitted Exhibits."
5. Hard copies of all exhibits shall be delivered to an address provided by the
Court's Courtroom Deputy at least two (2) judicial days before the first day of
trial. These exhibits shall be bound in one or more three-ring notebooks and

1 appropriately tabbed by exhibit number. While testifying, each witness shall have
2 available a copy of any exhibit that he or she will be expected to use or examine
3 during the trial. The witness shall not access any copy of an exhibit unless and
4 until instructed to do so by the examining counsel. With regard to exhibits as to
5 which admissibility is disputed, the Court will conduct proceedings outside the
6 presence of the jury during which counsel may present arguments and, if
7 necessary, voir dire witnesses, using the screen-sharing function in
8 ZoomGov.com to display the exhibits at issue from the respective Box.com
9 folders. To the extent possible, the Court will rule on the admissibility of exhibits
before a witness who is expected to use or examine such exhibits testifies.

10 6. The parties shall comply with Local Civil Rule 32(e) concerning the use of
11 depositions at trial. Video depositions that are used as substantive evidence shall
12 be broadcast via ZoomGov.com using the screen-sharing function. Counsel may,
13 but are not required to, upload video depositions to their respective Box.com
14 folders, but the recordings will not be transferred to the "Admitted Exhibits"
15 folder. Transcripts of depositions used during the trial for impeachment or as
16 substantive evidence need not be sealed prior to their use. Counsel may either
17 show the portion of the transcript at issue to the witness using the screen-sharing
18 function in ZoomGov.com or transmit the entire transcript to the witness via mail,
email, or otherwise in advance of his or her testimony.

19 7. If a program or platform other than Box.com will be used to publish exhibits to
20 the jury, then counsel shall file, prior to the first day of trial, a certification signed
21 under penalty of perjury indicating that the exhibits to be displayed to the jury
22 using the other program or platform are identical to the exhibits uploaded into the
23 folders on Box.com. The parties may use trial presentation technology to present
24 exhibits through the screen share function in ZoomGov.com.

1 **F. Professionalism During the Trial**

2 1. **Ambient Noise Protocols:**

3 a. All participants who are not actively being questioned as a witness, asking
4 questions of a witness, defending a witness, or providing or responding to
5 opening statements, closing arguments, or other arguments, shall use the
6 ZoomGov.com platform controls to mute their microphone and deactivate
7 their video camera. The Court's Trial Coordinator, who will "host" the
8 ZoomGov.com sessions, will mute any participant who fails to follow this
9 protocol.

10 b. Participants using multiple devices in a single workspace to access the trial
11 should avoid audio feedback issues by using the microphone and speakers
12 on only one device at a time, or by using headphones.

13 2. **Courtesy and Decorum:** To the extent possible, remote trial participants should
14 conduct themselves in the same way they would if they were physically present in
15 a courtroom. They should avoid interrupting someone who is speaking, except as
16 necessary to raise an objection. Virtual trial participants should silence electronic
17 devices other than the devices necessary to their remote participation, close
18 unnecessary computer programs or applications (such as email or calendar
19 notifications), and take steps to remove or minimize anything in their remote
20 workspace that might distract from the integrity of the proceedings. The Court
21 understands that conducting trial virtually, from one's home, for example,
22 presents many challenges. The Court asks all remote participants to do their best
23 to maintain professionalism in order to conduct a fair and efficient trial.

24 3. **Objections:** Counsel should make their objections orally. When an objection is
made, the witness shall stop talking until the Court rules on the objection. If the
objection requires a discussion outside the presence of the jury, the jurors will be
placed in the virtual jury room.

